

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 170920Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307  
INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 34000

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CB, LA, TH, VN  
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON INDOCHINA ISSUES

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT PACHARIYANG-KUN COMMENTED TO PRESS DEC 15 ON STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BORDER PROBLEM WITH CAMBODIA AND ON THAILAND'S WILLINGNESS TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS ON OVERFLIGHTS WITH LAOS AND VIET-NAM AND TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS WITH THE SRV. END SUMMARY.

1. CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE DEC 15 FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT NOTED THAT TALKS BETWEEN THAI AND CAMBODIAN LIAISON OFFICE PERSONNEL RESUME DEC 16 WITH THE RETURN TO POIPET OF THE CAMBODIANS. (NOTE: THEY DID NOT, IN FACT, APPEAR.) HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO PREVENT FUTURE BORDER INCIDENTS FROM OCCURRING, BUT HE ALSO EXPECTED IT TO TOUCH UPON THE QUESTION OF THE 26 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES FORCIBLY REPATRIATED NOV 23. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A JOINT COMMITTEE COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE FUTURE TO STUDY THE PRESENT BORDER DEMARCATION IN GREATER DETAIL. UPPADIT NOTED THAT THAILAND'S EFFORT TO DISCUSS THE NOVEMBER HAT LEK CLASH WITH THE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, BUT THE CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PEKING, CONTACTED BY THE THAI EMBASSY, HAD PROMISED HE WOULD RAISE IT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. REFUGEES. MINISTER UPPADIT NOTED THAT HE HEADS THE RTG COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH NEGOTIATING THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO THEIR OWN COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA. THE COM-

MITTEE HOPES TO REDO THE GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY OF REFUGEES INTO THAILAND.

3. OVERFLIGHTS. HE INDICATED THAT THAILAND EXPECTS TO SETTLE THE OVERFLIGHTS ISSUE FIRST WITH LAOS, AFTER WHICH HE THOUGHT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD IMPROVE. HE SUGGESTED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE AN INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE, THAILAND WANTING THE RIGHT TO OVERFLY AND LAOS WANTING THE MONEY FROM OVERFLIGHT FEES. AFTERWARDS, SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH VIET-NAM, WHICH HAS INDICATED IT HAS NO BOJECTION TO HOLDING TALKS, PROVIDED THE THAI AND LAO REACH AGREEMENT FIRST. PRESS QUOTED UPPADIT AS SAYING THE RTG IS READY TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE TWO COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

4. RELATIONS WITH VIET-NAM. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THAILAND HOPES NEGOTIATIONS WITH VIET-NAM ON THE ABOVE ISSUE WILL HELP PAVE THE WAY TO RESOLVING OTHER ISSUES BETWEEN THEM, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE RTG STANDS BY THE AUG 6 COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING ITS PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE (E.G., NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS) AND IS PREPARED TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS. HE ADDED THAT THAILAND WILL NOT DISCUSS THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO VIET-NAM UNTIL AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF ENVOYS.

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